

Good Morning Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the numerous preschoolers I work within New Britain schools. I have worked in this wonderful city for 18 years. As a Speech-Language Pathologist, I work with students in order to improve their speech and language skills. Although working with students in an urban, high poverty setting holds a high level of specific challenges not existing in wealthier settings, I choose to stay, because it is where I am most needed. However, one of the challenges that seems to grow every year which impacts all in our system is lack of resources, due to funding issues for our school district. Class sizes, and caseloads seem to increase yearly, although it is always a goal of our system to reduce. Please do not agree to the Governor's proposal for flat funding of the ECS while allocating additional monies for Charters and Magnet Schools. Please consider allocating additional monies equitably across educational systems with a focus on Priority School Districts. New Britain has a poverty rate approaching 80%, our families can not afford a higher tax rate to fund our basic initiatives, including decreasing class size, continuation of full day Kindergarten, increased support for Tier II and Tier III students.

Thank-you for your attention to this important matter, Karen Shoshani Speech-Language Pathologist
Gaffney/Chamberlain Preschool

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